

## ABSTRACT

The method for the non-disruptive monitoring of a packet flow from a target point (e.g., a specific port/VPI/VCI) to a counterpart point in a packet switch having one or more interface devices, connected to an internal bus, for servicing the target point, the counterpart point and a monitor test access connection (TAC) point comprises the steps of: (a) configuring the device servicing the TAC point to retrieve from the bus packets addressed thereto which use a multicast addressing scheme for routing packets from the target point to the counterpart point and from the target point to the monitor TAC point; (b) configuring the device servicing the counterpart point to additionally retrieve the multicast packets from the bus; and (c) configuring the device servicing the target point to address packets received thereat to the counterpart point and the monitor TAC point using the multicast address scheme only after step (b) is completed.

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